

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 776**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Chu**

February 18, 2005

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An act to amend Section 11165.9 of the Penal Code, relating to child abuse reporting.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 776, as introduced, Chu. Child abuse reporting.

Existing law requires certain persons to report incidents of suspected child abuse to specified authorities by telephone and also by written report. Existing law also requires certain agencies to accept reports of suspected child abuse even if those agencies lack jurisdiction to investigate, unless the agency can immediately refer the report of suspected child abuse to the agency with proper jurisdiction.

This bill would specify that the agencies required to accept reports of suspected child abuse submitted by mandated reporters accept telephone and written reports of suspected child abuse.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 11165.9 of the Penal Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 11165.9. Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be
- 4 made by mandated reporters to any police department or sheriff's
- 5 department, not including a school district police or security
- 6 department, county probation department, if designated by the
- 7 county to receive mandated reports, or the county welfare

1 department. Any of those agencies shall accept a *written or*  
2 *telephone* report of suspected child abuse or neglect whether  
3 offered by a mandated reporter or another person, or referred by  
4 another agency, even if the agency to whom the report is being  
5 made lacks subject matter or geographical jurisdiction to  
6 investigate the reported case, unless the agency can immediately  
7 electronically transfer the call to an agency with proper  
8 jurisdiction. When an agency takes a report about a case of  
9 suspected child abuse or neglect in which that agency lacks  
10 jurisdiction, the agency shall immediately refer the case by  
11 telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to an agency with  
12 proper jurisdiction.

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